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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/512,592	02/23/00	DICKENS	2039-301

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EXAMINER

HOMERE, J

ART UNIT

PAPER

23

2177

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.


Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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It has come to our attention that page 101 may have been inadvertently omitted in the mailing of the previous Office action. Enclosed is a copy of the above referenced page 101.

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JEAN R. HOMERE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Art Unit: 2117

thereby converting a six digit date (MMDDYY) into a corresponding eight digit date (C1C2Y1Y2M1M2D1D2) (see p. 940-941). Additionally, Booth complements Shaughnessy by suggesting the sorting of converted dates after having been reformatted by the SET EPOCH command (p. 945). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the instant invention to combine the teachings of the cited references. Booth's teaching of sorted reformatted dates would facilitate the Shaughnessy-Hazama's system to return the reformatted dates in chronological sequence. Such disclosed sorting would therefore be very useful when indexing the database in date order, as suggested by Booth on page 945.

Shaughnessy and Hazama do not specifically disclose the step of 'storing the converted symbolic representations separate from the at least one date field in the database.' Booth, however, further complements the cited references by renaming and storing sorted dates in the CUSTMER.DBF NEW_CUST.DBF databases (p. 841). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing to combine the teachings of the cited references. Booth's teaching of the storing the sorted reformatted dates would users of the Shaughnessy-Hazama's system to readily retrieve the reformatted dates in their chronological sequence at any time and in accordance with their needs.

31. Claims 72 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaughnessy in view of Hazama.

As to claim 72, Shaughnessy substantially discloses the invention including the claimed